

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 DLOS-09 EB-08

COME-00 AID-05 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00

/083 W

-----118439 252202Z /23

O R 252129Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1198

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2261

FROM NEGROPONTE FOR OES/OFA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS

SUBJ: TUNA DISCUSSIONS WITH GOCR OFFICIALS

1. AT TWO-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT AND HIS KEY CABINET MEMBERS MORNING MAY 25 NEGROPONTE OUTLINED ON AD REFERENDUM BASIS POSSIBLE REGIONAL LICENSING SCHEME WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN IATTC CONTEXT FOR 1979 SEASON. HE SUGGESTED THAT ONE ALTERNATIVE TO RESUMPTION OF CUMBERSOME AND TIME-CONSUMING LARGE-SCALE PLENIPOTENTIARY NEGOTIATION OF IATTC AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TO CONVENE EXTRAORDINARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF IATTC, POSSIBLY IN LA JOLLA, TO DISCUSS GENERAL IMPLICATIONS OF NEW SITUATION CREATED BY COSTA RICAN AND MEXICAN NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM ORGANIZATION. AT THAT TIME US COULD ALSO TABLE SPECIFIC REGIONAL LICENSING SCHEME FOR 1979 SEASON WHICH, IF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE, COULD BE PASSED AS INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION WHICH COULD THEN BE ADOPTED BY COMMISSION. FOREGOING ON ASSUMPTION THAT MEXICO AND COSTA RICA WOULD BE WILLING TO STAYS IN ORGANIZATION.

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2. HYPOTHETICAL LICENSING SCHEME WHICH WE OUTLINED HAD FOLLOWING KEY ELEMENTS: (A) PAYMENTS ON BASIS OF A PERCENTAGE OF LANDED VALUE OF REGIONWIDE CATCHES BY ALL RPT ALL VESSELS FISHING IN THE REGION AND (B) RETENTION OF PORTION OF RECEIPTS, SAY TWENTY PERCENT, BY IATTC ITSELF FOR USE TOWARDS EXPENSES WITH REMAINING EIGHTY PERCENT TO BE DISBURSED TO COASTAL STATES ON BASIS DECIDED BY THEM-

SELVES WITH ASSISTANCE OF COMMISSION. STILL UNCLEAR IN OUR OWN MINDS ARE ISSUES OF WHETHER FEE WOULD BE BASED ON FISHING THROUGH-OUT EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC OR ONLY FOR CYRA; ALSO WHETHER LIC-ENSE PAYMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON YELLOWFIN CATCHES ALONE OR WHETHER OTHER SPECIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED. ALSO, PERCENTAGE OF LANDED VALUE WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED. NEGROPONTE MENTIONED HYPOTHETICAL FIGURE OF ONE PERCENT OF ALL SKIPJACK AND YELLOWFIN LANDINGS IN ENTIRE CYRA AND ALSO NOTED THAT SEPTEMBER 1977 JOINT MEXICAN-COSTA RICAN PROPOSAL HAD BEEN FIGURE OF FIVE PERCENT. IN ANY EVENT, THESE WERE IDEAS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE FLESHED OUT BEFORE A USG MEETING WITH INDUSTRY IN LA JOLLA JUNE 13 AND 14 AND THEREAFTER WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO TABLE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR COSTA RICANS AND OTHERS CONCERNED.

3. WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FROM DEPARTMENT ON URGENT BASIS IS WHETHER IATTC ADOPTED LICENSING SCHEME ALONG LINES OUTLINED ABOVE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT ANY OTHER LEGAL ACTION ON OUR PART. THAT IS, WOULD WE NEED TO RATIFY SUCH PROCEDURE BY AN AMENDING PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION OR BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE TUNA CONVENTIONS ACT. IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT AS LONG AS FEES ARE PAID TO IATTC AND PAID BY ALL VESSELS, THAT EXISTING IATTC PROCEDURES MIGHT SUFFICE. WE WOULD NONETHELESS APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS SPECIFIC POINT BY IMMEDIATE MESSAGE BEFORE COB SAN JOSE TIME MAY 26.

4. ALSO, PLEASE INSURE THAT THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ION OF NOAA WASHINGTON AND TERMINAL ISLAND. YOU MAY ASSURE THEM THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE ON AD REFERENDUM BASIS AND VERY MUCH ALONG LINES OF OUR RECENT TALKS WITH KEY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. IF A REASONABLE REGIONAL LICENSING SCHEME CAN BE WORKED OUT LINKED TO CONTINUED MEXICAN AND COSTA RICAN MEMBERSHIP IN PRESENT IATTC, THEN GAME IS CLEARLY WORTH THE CANDLE.
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